

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method of manufacturing elements of relatively small size, especially such as planchettes, comprising the following steps:

- unwinding a wound sheet ~~is unwound~~, then
- optionally, printing this sheet ~~is printed~~ at least partly on at least one side, and then
- cutting deeply right through the sheet ~~is cut deeply "right through" along by a~~ succession of at least two cutting patterns that intersect so as to constitute a resulting pattern that ~~will form~~ forms a detached element constituting the element of relatively small size, this cutting operation taking place by means of a succession of synchronized cutting cylinders each carrying at least one respective cutting thread that cuts one of the cutting patterns respectively, ~~anvil cylinders said cutting cylinders being in succession along a conveying path of the sheet, at least one anvil cylinder being interposed between these cutting cylinders, the sheet passing between all these cylinders and~~
- recovering the detached elements that form said elements of relatively small size are recovered.

2. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the steps are carried out in line.

3. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein it is carried out at a speed of between 20 and 150 m/min.

4. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sheet is a sheet of paper, a sheet of nonwoven or a sheet of plastic, or a complex of these materials.

5. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed by flexography.

6. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed in an amount of 1 to 10 g/m² per side, ~~preferably between 2 and 5 g/m² per side.~~

7. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed on only one side.

8. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed on both its sides in succession by front/back registration, ~~in particular by turning the sheet over or by reversing the rotation of a printing unit.~~

9. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sheet has a thickness of between about 5 and 110 μm .

10. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detached elements are recovered by stripping, ~~in particular using a peel bar and suction.~~

11. (Currently amended): The manufacturing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the largest dimension of the detached element is between 0.5 and 6 mm, ~~preferably between 1 and 4 mm.~~

12. (Currently amended): A method of cutting out elements of relatively small size, ~~especially such as planchettes, wherein, starting from comprising:~~

 - providing a sheet,
 - cutting deeply right through said sheet ~~is cut deeply "right through"~~, continuously, ~~along by~~ a succession of at least two cutting patterns that intersect so as to constitute a resulting pattern that ~~will form~~ forms a detached element constituting the element of relatively small size, this cutting operation taking place using a succession of synchronized cutting cylinders each carrying at least one respective cutting thread that cuts one of the cutting patterns respectively, ~~anvil cylinders~~ said cutting cylinders being in succession along a conveying path of the sheet, at least one anvil cylinder being interposed between these cutting cylinders.

13. (Currently amended): A device for cutting out elements of relatively small size, ~~especially such as planchettes,~~ wherein it comprises a rotary cutting device comprising a succession of synchronized cutting cylinders having respective cutting threads, said cutting cylinders being in succession along a conveyance path of a sheet to be cut, anvil cylinders being interposed between these cutting cylinders, the cutting threads on the cylinders being ~~supplemented complementary~~ so as to form ~~an entire figure~~ at least two cutting patterns that intersect so as to constitute a resulting pattern that forms a detached element from the sheet when the cutting cylinders rotate in a synchronized manner and when suitably adjusted.

14. (Currently amended): The cutting device as claimed in claim 13, wherein each cutting cylinder is a magnetic cylinder covered with a magnetizable flexible plate retained by demagnetization forces, ~~especially made of steel,~~ bearing the cutting threads, which are electrochemically etched.

15. (Previously presented): The cutting device as claimed in claim 14, wherein it includes a base anvil cylinder.

16. (Currently amended): A device for manufacturing elements of relatively small size, ~~especially such as planchettes,~~ wherein it includes a reel holder, a printing device, with at least one printing unit, and a cutting device ~~described in~~ as claimed in claim 13.

17. (Previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein it includes a printing device having at least two printing units with a set of bars for turning the sheet over between the units.

18. (Previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein it includes a printing unit having at least two printing units with a device for reversing the rotation of one of the printing units.

19. (Currently amended): The manufacturing device as claimed in claim 16, wherein it includes, after the cutting device, a stripping device, ~~in particular one using a peel bar and suction.~~

20. (Previously presented): The manufacturing device as claimed in claim 16, wherein it includes an antistatic treatment device.

21. (Currently amended): A security element of relatively small size, wherein it is obtained using the manufacturing ~~and/or cutting methods described in~~ method of claim 1 and ~~in that~~ it includes identification patterns observable to the naked eye.

22. (Currently amended): The security element as claimed in claim 21, wherein it includes patterns chosen from patterns ~~that are~~ visible in natural light, patterns visible under UV

light, luminescent patterns, ~~particularly fluorescent or patterns,~~ phosphorescent patterns, ~~which are patterns~~ detectable by near ~~or infrared radiation,~~ patterns detectable by intermediate infrared radiation, thermochromic patterns, piezochromic patterns, patterns based on DNA tracers, patterns that are optically variable, ~~especially iridescent or patterns,~~ patterns based on liquid crystals ~~or, patterns based on~~ diffraction gratings, ~~or~~ moiré patterns, ~~or~~ holograms, electromagnetic patterns, ~~or and~~ combinations thereof.

23. (Currently amended): The security element as claimed in claim 21, wherein it includes, beneath or alongside said patterns, printing of electromagnetic, ~~especially magnetic,~~ character ~~and in particular continuous tracks or codes in the form of magnetic bits.~~

24. (Previously presented): The security element as claimed in claim 21, wherein it includes chemical authentication reactants or reactants that reveal a specific event.

25. (Currently amended): A security element of relatively small size, wherein it is obtained using the manufacturing ~~and/or cutting methods described in~~ method of claim 1, and wherein the shape of said element is a security characteristic.

26. (Currently amended): A security sheet comprising a fibrous substrate which includes at least one security element of relatively small size obtained using the manufacturing ~~and/or~~

~~cutting methods described in~~ method of claim 1.

27. (Currently amended): A decorative sheet comprising a fibrous substrate, which includes at least one decorative element of relatively small size obtained using the manufacturing ~~and/or cutting methods described in~~ method of claim 1.

28. (Original): A security document comprising, as base, a sheet as claimed in claim 26.

29. (Previously presented): A package comprising a sheet as claimed in claim 26.

30. (Previously presented): A security element as claimed in claim 21, wherein the shape of said element is a security characteristic.

31. (Currently amended): A security sheet comprising a fibrous substrate which includes at least one security element as ~~described~~ claimed in claim 21.